AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 49, beginning on line 21, last paragraph bridging pages 49 and 50, amend as follows:

Total RNA was prepared from STRO-1^{BRT}/$CD146^{+}$ sorted BMMNCs, and control cells (primary BMSSC cultures grown in the presence of 10^{-7} M dexamethasone for three weeks) using RNA STAT-60 (TEL-TEST Inc. Friendswood TX). First-strand cDNA synthesis was performed with a first-strand cDNA synthesis kit (GIBCO BRL, Life Technologies) using an oligo-dT primer. First strand cDNA (2 μl) was added to 46 μl of a 1X PCR master reaction mix (Roche Diagnostics, Gmbh Mannheim Germany) and 10 pMol of each human specific primer sets: CBFA1 (632bp, and three smaller alternative splice variants)[27] sense 5'-CTATGGAGAGGACGCCACGCCTGG-3' [SEQ ID NO. 1], antisense, 5'-CATAGCCATCGTAGCCTTGTCCT-3' [SEQ ID NO. 2]; osteocalcin (310bp)[4] sense, 5'-CATGAGAGCCCTCACA-3' [SEQ ID NO. 3], antisence, 5'-AGAGCGACACCCTAGAC-3' [SEQ ID NO. 4]; GAPDH (800bp) [4] sense, 5'-AGCCGCATCTTCTTTTGCGTC-3' [SEQ ID NO. 5]; antisense 5'-TCATATTTGGCAGGTTTTTCT-3' [SEQ ID NO. 6]. The reactions were incubated in a PCR Express Hybaid thermal cycler (Hybaid, Franklin, MA) at 95°C for 2 minutes for 1 cycle then 94°C/(30 sec), 60°C/(30 sec), 72°C/(45 sec) for 35 cycles, with a final 7 minute extension at 72°C. Following amplification, each reaction was analyzed by 1.5% agarose gel electrophoresis, and visualized by ethidium bromide staining.

On page 65, Table 2, amend as follows:

Table 2. RT-PCR primers and conditions for the specific amplification of human mRNA

Target Gene	*Sense/ Antisense (5'-3') Primer Sequences*	*Product Size*
GAPDH	CACTGACACGTTGGCAGTGG/ [SEQ ID NO. 7] CATGGAGAAGGCTGGGGCTC [SEQ ID NO. 8]	417
Leptin	ATGCATTGGGAACCCTGTGC/ [SEQ ID NO. 9] GCACCCAGGGCTGAGGTCCA [SEQ ID NO. 10]	492
CBFA-1	GTGGACGAGGCAAGAGTTTCA/ [SEQ ID NO. 11] TGGCAGGTAGGTGTGGTAGTG [SEQ ID NO. 12]	632
OCN	ATGAGAGCCCTCACACTCCTC/ [SEQ ID NO. 13] CGTAGAAGCGCCGATAGGC [SEQ ID NO. 14]	289
GFAP	CTGTTGCCAGAGATGGAGGTT/ [SEQ ID NO. 15] TCATCGCTCAGGAGGTCCTT [SEQ ID NO. 16]	370
Nestin	GGCAGCGTTGGAACAGAGGTTGGA/ [SEQ ID NO. 17] CTCTAAACTGGAGTGGTCAGGGCT [SEQ ID NO. 18]	460
GATA-4	GACTTCTCAGAAGGCAGAG/ [SEQ ID NO. 19] CTATCCTCCAAGTCCCAGAG [SEQ ID NO. 20]	800
PDGFβ-R	AATGTCTCCAGCACCTTCGT/ [SEQ ID NO. 21] AGCGGATGTGGTAAGGCATA [SEQ ID NO. 22]	650
Osterix	GGCACAAAGAAGCCGTACTC/ [SEQ ID NO. 23] CACTGGGCAGACAGTCAGAA [SEQ ID NO. 24]	247
COL X	AGCCAGGGTTGCCAGGACCA/ [SEQ ID NO. 25] TTTTCCCACTCCAGGAGGGC [SEQ ID NO. 26]	387
SOX9	CTC TGC CTG TTT GGA CTT TGT/ [SEQ ID NO. 27] CCT TTG CTT GCC TTT TAC CTC [SEQ ID NO. 28]	598
Ang-1	CCAGTCAGAGGCAGTACATGCTA AGAATTGAGTTA/ [SEQ ID NO. 29] GTTTTCCATGGTTTTGTCCCGCAGTA [SEQ ID NO. 30]	300